

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please and ADD new claim 18 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A communication system utilizing a network, comprising:
a user computer, connected to the network, the user computer including an access unit utilizing predetermined quality of service features for interaction with the network;

a service provider computer, connected to the network, providing the predetermined quality of service features to said access unit by at least one of enabling, disabling, altering and adding quality of service features in said access unit prior to the utilizing of the predetermined quality of service by said access unit; and

a database, connected to the service provider computer, to determine which of the predetermined quality of service features are currently one of permissible and required for the user computer.

8. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 7, wherein the network is the Internet.

9. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is an autonomous device.

10. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is a plug-in device for the user computer.

11. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is a processor of the user computer programmed to determine predetermined quality of service features for interaction with the network.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said service provider computer is assigned to an Internet service provider.

14. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the quality of service features are called up dynamically in the access unit.

15. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein conversion from a first protocol to a second protocol is effected in the access unit.

16. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is an integral component in the first computer and is incapable of operation without additional components.

17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A method of communication utilizing a network, comprising
storing quality of service features for a user connecting to the network via an access unit, determined in advance of connecting to the network, in a database operated by a communication service provider;

determining which of the quality of service features are currently one of permissible and required for the user; and

monitoring and enforcing the quality of service features of the user via the access unit.